

Application No. 09/897,042
Amendment dated May 11, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 11, 2004

REMARKS

The Official Action dated February 11, 2004 has been carefully considered.

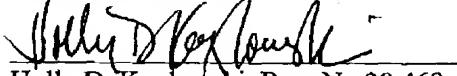
Accordingly, the changes presented herewith, taken with the following remarks, are believed sufficient to place the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the present Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 21 and 22 are cancelled. Claims 25-31 remain in the application. As these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter, and do not raise any new issues subsequent to final rejection, entry of the present Amendment is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, 1, 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Rogers et al U.S. Patent No. 6,025,152. Claims 6, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rogers et al in view of the Patterson et al U.S. Patent No. 4,269,764 and the Eisenbach-Schwartz et al U.S. Patent No. 6,126,939. These rejections are traversed. However, to expedite prosecution, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 21 and 22 are cancelled. Thus, the rejections are now moot.

Claims 25-31 were previously indicated as allowed. It is therefore submitted that the present application is now in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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